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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13
AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 DHA-02 FEA-01 ACDA-07
CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05
OES-06 DODE-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /112 W
----------091327Z 012986 /53
O 091238Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2563

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 5069

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IN
SUBJECT: NACCFM: INDIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY'S VIEWS ON PROCEEDINGS

1. INDIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY MEHTA INVITED IN THE CHARGE ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 9 TO BRIEF HIM ON PROCEEDINGS THUS FAR AT THE NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND TO POSE A QUESTION REGARDING THE LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OF A MODEST INDIAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE NON-ALIGNED SOLIDARITY FUND FOR VIETNAM AND LAOS (REPORTED SEPTEL).

2. MEHTA REPORTED THAT THE DELHI DECLARATION WILL PROBABLY BE MORE MODERATE THAN THAT AT COLOMBO; HE CERTAINLY EXPECTED IT WOULD BE NO WORSE. THE GOI'S PROBLEM AT THE CONFERENCE, HE SAID, WAS TO BALANCE THE NEW GOVT'S DESIRE TO SHOW CONTINUITY IN FOREIGN POLICY WITH WHAT HE IMPLIED WERE ITS NEW ATTITUDES AND APPROACHES. IN OTHER WORDS, THE NEW GOVT HAD TO DEMONSTRATE ITS CREDENTIALS WITHIN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT WHILE ENCOURAGING MODERATION IN THE CONFERENCE.

3. IN REGARD TO PUERTO RICO, MEHTA SAID THE INDIANS TRIED ALL LAST NIGHT TO GET THE LANGUAGE OF THE LATIN AMERICAN PAPER MODIFIED. HE IDENTIFIED NOT ONLY CUBA BUT ALSO GUYANA AS PARTICULARLY ACTIVE IN PUSHING RADICAL LANGUGAGE. THE INDIANS, MEHTA
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SAID, WERE TRYING TO KEEP SPECIFIC MENTION OF THE U.S. OUT OF THE LANGUAGE ON PUERTO RICO AND ELIMINATE THE REFERENCE TO INDEPENDENCE WHICH IS NOW THERE. MEHTA SAID HE PERSONALLY SPOKE TO THE GUYANANS ABOUT THE MEAGRE SIX PERCENT VOTE FOR INDEPENDENCE IN U.S. ELECTIONS. MEHTA TOLD THE CHARGE HE THOUGHT IT SATISFACTORY TO LEAVE IN LANGUAGE OF THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. THE CHARGE REPLIED THAT, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF

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THEN
ECENT ELECTIONS, WE CONSIDERED ANY MENTION OF PUERTO RICO
TO BE IMPROPER. MEHTA SAID THAT THE INDIANS WERE THE ONLY COUNTRY
TO SPEAK OUT ON PUERTO RICO DURING THE DEBATE LAST NIGHT.
HE BELIEVED THE LANGUAGE WOULD BE NO WORSE THAN THAT AT COLOMBO
AND PROBABLY BETTER. THE CHARGE ASKED WHAT THE PROSPECT WAS FOR
RESERVATIONS, AS AT COLOMBO, AND MEHTA SHRUGGED HIS SHOULDERS.

4. IN REGARD TO KOREA, MEHTA SAID THAT THE INDIANS IN THEIR
DRAFT TRIED TO FOCUS ON THE 1972 AGREEMENT FOR JOINT TALKS.
THE NORTH KOREANS HOWEVER, HAD PROPOSED AMENDMENTS LARGELY
FROM THE LANGUAGE FROM THE COLOMBO DECLARATION AND MEHTA THOUGHT
IT WOULD BE EIFFICULT TO FIGHT THIS. MEHTA SAID THE INDIAN
DELEGATION WAS TRYING ITS BEST TO ELIMINATE THE REFERENCE TO
NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THE CHARGE MENTIONED RESERVATIONS AND SAID
IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR LATER MULTILATERAL MEETINGS
THAT THE TREND ESTABLISHED AT COLOMBO BE MAINTAINED. MEHTA
REPLIED THAT RESERVATIONS AT COLOMBO HAD PERTAINED TO A SEPARATE
RESOLUTION; HE WAS NON-COMMITTAL ABOUT THE PROSPECT FOR RESER-
VATIONS TO KOREAN LANGUAGE IN THE DELHI DECLARATION, BUT OBVIOUSLY
HOPED THE LANGUAGE COULD BE MADE SATISFACTORY SO THAT RESERVA-
TIONS WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY.

5. MEHTA SAID THE MOST DIFFICULT ISSUE HAS BEEN THE MIDDLE EAST.
WHEN ARAB COUNTRIES GATHER IN MULTILATERAL FORA, HE EXPLAINED,
THE LANGUAGE TENDS TO BECOME EXTREME "ZIONISM, AGGRESSION, ETC".
HE SAID THIS WAS NOT QUITE IN KEEPING WITH INDIANS ON RATIONAL
THINKING. HIS IMPLICATION WAS THATINDIA WOULD NONETHELESS GO
ALONG.
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6. COMMENT: PART OF MEHTA'S APPARENT PURPOSE IN SQUEEZING IN AN
APPOINTMENT WITH THE CHARGE IMMEDIATELY BEFORE HE HAD TO RUSH
OFF WITH THE VISITQNG FOREIGN MINISTERS TO KASHMIR WAS TO
EXPLAIN THE POSITION IN WHICH THE NEW INDIAN GOVT FOUND ITSELF.
IN ORDER TO BE EFFECTIVE AS A MODERATE IT HAD TO DEMONSTRATE ITS
CREDENTISLS WITHIN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT. MEHTA ALSO WANTED
US TO KNOW THE GOI WAS TAKING INTO ACCOUNT OUR CONCERNS. WE
HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT THIS AND THUS FAR ARE HOPEFUL THAT MEHTA'S
FORECAST OF NOTHING WORSE THAN COLOMBO AND PROBABLY SOMETHING
BETTER WILL BE CORRECT
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Subject: NACCFM: INDIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY\'S VIEWS ON PROCEEDINGS
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To: STATE
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